



Office of Communications • 401 East Pratt Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 Contact: Karen Glenn Hood • 410.767.6318 • kglenn@choosemaryland.org

## GOVERNOR O'MALLEY ANNOUNCES MARYLAND TAPPED BY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE FOR NEW GLOBAL CENTER

Montgomery County to gain more than 100 new jobs by mid 2010

BALTIMORE, MD (February 24, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett to announce that the International Baccalaureate Organization (IB), a non-profit educational organization with more than 2,500 IB World Schools around the globe, has selected Maryland as the location of its new global center for the IB Americas region. The new center, which will be located in Montgomery County and will be operational by 2010, will have more than 100 employees who will manage operations and assessment for nearly 1,500 schools in 28 countries and territories in the Americas. The new center is part of IB's plan to expand capacity over the next 12 years in preparation for an estimated 2.5 million students and 10,000 IB programs worldwide in 2020.

"Maryland's well-deserved reputation as a national leader in education, combined with our highly-educated workforce, diverse cultural community and strategic location make us an ideal location for the Global Centre for the Americas," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "This is a tremendous win for Maryland, for Montgomery County and for the thousands of international students worldwide that will benefit from Maryland's exceptional educational infrastructure and talented workforce."

"The selection of Montgomery County, Maryland to serve as the base of our operations in the Americas provides us with an opportunity to not only be geographically closer to the 91 IB World Schools in the Maryland, DC and Virginia area but to also expand our service offerings to include assessment ability for the first time in the region," said Drew Deutsch, IB Americas Director. "We look forward to creating a world-class center from which we can provide more high quality services to our schools."

"More than two dozen public schools across Maryland are involved in the IB program, a number that has been growing," said State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick. "The philosophy of the IB program dovetails perfectly with our State's own educational philosophy. We believe that rigorous academic programs help produce tomorrow's leaders. We welcome to Maryland the IB's Global Centre for the Americas."

"We are delighted that IB has chosen Montgomery County to set up its new Global Center for the Americas. Education is the engine of growth for the knowledge economy as well as developing economies. Students in Montgomery County have benefited from the rigorous IB program that arms them with the academic and social skills to contribute to a better world," said Leggett. "This significant win for Montgomery County could not have happened without our partners at the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Montgomery County Public Schools. This success is the result of true collaboration between education and economic development, and State and County."

International Baccalaureate's announcement comes on the heels of the recent *Education Week* announcement that Maryland is home to the best public school system in the country. Forbes has also named Bethesda "the most-educated small town" in the United States. In addition, more than half of Montgomery

County's total budget is spent on education, and the County boasts the highest percentage of people holding PhDs in the United States.

Founded in 1968, the IB works with more than 2,519 schools in 132 countries to offer and develop its three challenging programs to more than 684,000 students ranging in ages 3 to 19. The IB encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. It also serves in an educational advisory capacity to other educational organizations. To learn more about the IB Americas, please visit <a href="https://www.ibo.org/iba/">www.ibo.org/iba/</a>.

## **About DBED:**

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.choosemaryland.org">www.choosemaryland.org</a>.